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LETTER

Sent by His

HIGHNESS

THE

Bishop and Prince

OF

MUNSTER,

TO THE

**LORDS the States-General of the
UNITED NETHERLANDS;**

Discovering their wicked **Designs** and abominable **Actions**; the Cause
of the present **War** and **Military Undertakings**; as the rifling of
the Noble-mens Houses, the plundering of the Commons,
the torturing of their *Bodies* in a most cruel and bar-
barous manner, the roasting them alive at the fire,
and like *Turks* or *Infidels*, to rob and abuse
the Sacred Churches.

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A Letter sent by his Highness the Bishop and Prince of Munster, to
the Lords the States-General of the United Netherlands,

*Our Friendly Service, and whatsoever else of Love and Kindness is in
Our Power, High and Mighty Lords, Our singularly Beloved
Friends and Neighbours.*

Your *High and Mighty Lordships* do, without doubt, very well remember, how above a year since, upon the 29 of *April*, You were pleased to write unto Us by a *Courier*, and how at that time We returned You a Friendly and satisfactory *Answer*. We did indeed hope that Your unkind *Designs* and *Resolutions*, whereof You then gave Us Notice, would have been prevented by Our fair *Applications* to You, and by the evidence of those *Reasons* We represented to You, how that the differences in *East-Friseland*, had not onely been decided first at *Aurich*, and afterward at the *Diet* of *Ratisbone*, where the *Prince Elector* of *Mentz*, and the *Bishop* of *Strasbourg*, interposed as *Mediators*, but that We also out of Love to the *Publique Peace*, and a desire to give You all possible satisfaction, though the *Thing* did not properly concern Your *High and Mighty Lordships*, had by the *Dean* of Our *Cathedral*, whom We sent to treat with Your *Deputies*, cleared up all *Mistakes*, and had made good within the time limited by the *Decree*, all that was required on Our Part; so that no man, unless possessed with *Passion* and *Prejudice*, could find any thing to blame in Our Proceedings. Which is so manifest, that even the Lords of the Province of *Holland*, in their late *Disputes* with the Province of *West-Friseland*, about the Supplies to be sent against the King of *England*, have confessed that on Our side there had not been the least Formality omitted. But yet We find, and must to Our sorrow profess, that *things* are fallen out contrary to Our Expectation, and that therefore We are necessitated to seek for *Reparation*, and *Security* for the future, for all the *Affronts* and *Injuries* We have received from You. To this end We are resolved to make Our Recourse to *Almighty God*, and withall to make use of those *Affistances*, which *His Providence* hath afforded

Us from other Princes with whom We have Alliance, and for that purpose, to give Order for such Preparatives, as are suitable to the present Occasion.

And we have been herunto moved, among many other weighty and just Reasons, principally by this one, That your High and Mighty Lordships, though you have no Right to meddle with the Judicature or Commissions of Execution belonging to the Roman Empire, or to undertake the protection of any Subject or Member of the Empire, against the Imperial Res Judicata and Denunciation of the Commission of Execution, or to support them against the Process sub clausulis parata Executionis, and Constituti possessionis Pacta & Transactiones, after they have been truly consented to by both Parties, did nevertheless upon pretext of the Prince of East-Friselands Interest, (though he had before had exhibited his pretended Grievances to the Emperor and Diet at Ratisbon, where they had been with the Approbation of his Father-in-law the Duke of Wirtemberg redressed as far as there was Reason) presume to assault the Emperor and Roman Empire, but more especially the Circle of Westphalia, and in it Us your Neighbours; And contrary to the Peace of Munster, and the express League made there with other Princes and Potentates, to fall into the Country with an Army, and take our March through it for some Leagues together, to break down the Bridges over the Rivers, in an hostile manner to require Provision and Quarters, to rattle the Houses of the Nobility, to plunder the Country people of all they had, to use violence to their persons by torturing them, and in a most cruel and barbarous manner roasting them at the Fire; to ruine dwelling Houses and Barns, and set many of them on fire; yea, and not to spare God Himself, but to break open Churches, and steal whatsoever was found there, and like Turks or Infidels, to abuse and prophane whatsoever was Sacred in them. And lastly, to besiege Our Men, whom We had in the Name of His Imperial Majesty put into the Eyler-Sconce, which without all Dispute is situate within the Limits and Bounds of the Roman Empire; to bring down Canon against it, and after severall people in it were killed and wounded, to force the rest to a Surrender, and place a Garrison of your Own in it, which in despite of the Roman Empire, and German Nation, You maintain there to this very day.

And all this was done by you, before one penny was paid of that Debt

Debt of which payment was seem'd to be proffered, though indeed it cannot be said that ever it was truly proffered, seeing the Profer was not made in ready Money. Nor can the Principle of the *L. Oblatione pignus solvi*, serve to any purpose in this Fact, for the Profer therein-
 tended ought not to be Verbal, but Real. But besides (*which Your High and Mighty Lordships in your Own Letter are not able to deny*) We told You in a Memorial dated the 18 of February, 7 that the Decision of this Business did belong to His Imperial Majesty and his Council, and not to You, who had nothing to do with it, which is an undoubted Truth. Nor does it at all help You, to say that You followed this Business at Ratisbone, all the Term of the first Payment, and part of the second; that being altogether needless, seeing the Matter had bin brought to a new Accommodation at Ratisbone, and a Settlement made in it, much more to the Settlement and Advantage of East-Friseland. It is true indeed, that You might lawfully Re Integra have resumed Your Money, and for such inconsiderable Damage as you might have sustained, have in a Legal way demanded Reparation, but not employ your Money in Attempts of so Dangerous Consequence to the Roman Empire and German Nation.

The Inhabitants of East-Friseland, as well as their Neighbours, do very well know, that they never were in the least oppress'd by Us, but that on the other side They have from time to time, been brought into a slavish subjection by Your High and Mighty Lordships, as well by Your bringing upon them heretofore the Mansfieldish, and since that the Hessish Armies, and Your seizing of the Castle of Leerort, as by Your continual Fomenting of Dissention between the Princes and the States of the Country, and your putting a Garrison into the City of Embden: so that it is manifest, Your High and Mighty Lordships did not so much regard the benefit of the Prince of East-Friseland, as your own Interest, and that the Protection of East-Friseland was but a meer Pretence which you sought, to declare your Enmity against the Roman Empire, and especially against Us, and that in so high a degree as hath not been heard of since the General Peace concluded at Munster.

For all these Violations of the Peace. Actions of Hostility and Invasions, VVe have not hitherto received any Reparation or Satisfaction, but

but have been forced to pass them all by; especially at that time when in Compliance with the Unanimous Resolution of the *Empire*, We were to march with Our Forces to assist the Emperour against the *common Enemy* the *Turk*. And we cannot but take notice, how that contrary to the *Respect* and *Civility* used among all Princes, you did write very contemptibly and dishonourably of Us to his *Imperial Majesty*, and as if that had not been enough, did to Our greater *Disgrace* and *Infamy*, cause your *Letter* to be publicly printed before it could be delivered to him. Nor must it be omitted, how in the year 1616, you did against all *Right*, invade our Territory of *Borkeloo*, with other places belonging to Us, of which You do still most injuriously retain the possession: Neither did you think it enough to have made all these *Invasions* upon Us, but as if you had resolved never to lay down your pernicious *Designs* against Us, You did threaten in a *Letter* dated at the *Hague*, June 19, 1664. to put in Execution the Sentence of *Arnhem*, which was passed though *Nulliter & Incompetenter* in the years, 1613, 1615, and 1622, in the Cause of *Borkeloo*, (which had before received a just Decision at *Spire*) and by this pretence, to exact from Us the Sum of fifteen hundred thousand *Guilders*, to our utter *Ruin* and *Destruction*, if You had not been prevented in your Design by the *War* with *England*.

We will at this time forbear to mention other innumerable *Injuries* and *Wrongs* which You have done Us, and which we shall hereafter make known to the *World*, as in particular your animating our City of *Munster* against Us, and endeavouring to seduce it, by which you have plunged Our whole Country into a Debt of some Tonns of *Gold*, with whom also, as VVe are assuredly informed, You still continue a very dangerous Correspondance.

But We will not dissemble with You how the States of *Gelderland* at *Arnhem* (as by your own *Gazets* is every where blown up and down) have discovered the extremity of their *Malice* against Us, by clapping up meerly upon Our Account, to Our infinite *Reproach* and *Infamy*, several innocent Persons and miserably torturing them, murdering one of them, and then giving out against all *Truth* and *Honesty*, that VVe had suborned them to betray the Cities of *Arnhem* and *Doesberg*, and given them *Order* to set them on fire in three places, which we cannot but resent as a detestable falshood and slander.

And

And hereupon we have thought good to represent all this to your High and Mighty Lordships, not only to Vindicate Our Selves to the World, but also to convince you of the reasonableness of our Requests and Demands. And we have the Charity to hope, that for the Reasons aforesaid, and to prevent all the miseries and calamities which may follow, you will think fit to take a speedy care, that immediately and without delay, we may receive a full satisfaction and restitution, with a settled security for the time to come. And that you will presently send Us such a sufficient Declaration of your Intention in it, as We may rely on. If You shall not do this, Our Forces have Order to be in readiness, and We must protest that We are Innocent of all the Mischiefs which may happen. The Reproach of which must fall upon the heads of those men, who by their Oppressions, Violences, and Invasions gave the first Occasion of this Warr. And that your High and Mighty Lordships may the less take it ill, or think it strange We write unto you in this manner, You may please to remember that your Letter unto Us of the 29 of *April* of the last year, was written in the same manner, to which You gave the Name and Title of a *Defiance*, *Manifesto* or Declaration of War, which you did not only cause to be published in print, but also to be effectually put in Execution.

Howsoever VVe do expressly Declare, that in all this VVe have no other aim or design than what VVe have already Owned, that is, to attain by these means a more firm and better settled Peace and Amity with the United Provinces of the *Netherlands*, not intending to give any body disturbance for matters of Religion, or to take away the liberty which any persons enjoy. Thus hoping You will make a quick dispatch, and without loosing Time, return us a satisfactory answer by this Trumpeter, whom VVe have appointed to receive it, VVe remain ready to do Your High and Mighty Lordships any Neighbourly Service.

Given at St. *Lougersburg* the 14 of *September*,
Anno 1665.

Your High and Mighty Lordships, True Friend and Neighbour;
Ready to Serve You,

CHRISTOPHER BERNARD.